(b) Proposals from foreign hoteliers for investment in hotels in India are not received directly by the Department of Tourism but through the Indian promoters who are making queries in this regard.

(c) To encourge private investment in the tourism industry. Government have recently announced for the industry, tax benefits under Section 80 HHC and 80 CC, and enhancement of interest subsidy for hotels of the 1 to 3 star categories. Besides, the terms and conditions of foreign collaboration have been liberalised to help accelerate development of hotels and convention facilities of international standards. At the instance of the Ministry of Tourism, a number of State Governments have given either tourism or hotels the status of an industry thereby making them eligible for such incentives as are available to other industries in the respective States.

Mass Exodus of Pilots to Foreign Airlines

59. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4272 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 31st August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether Government have since obtained information from Gulf Air to ascertain that nearly 200 of the 530 pilots in the Indian Airlines have applied for jobs in Gulf Air;

(b) whether it is also confirmed by the Senior IA officials that 200 pilots were attempting to leave the Indian Airlines;

(c) whether this would create a great difficulty in India; and

(d) if so, what steps are being considered in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL) (a) to (d) Gulf Air had floated a global advertisement for Boeing 737 pilots offering lucrative salaries. Information from Gulf Air offices has revealed that they have a total of about five vacancies, so the question of Indian Airlines' Pilots leaving the Corporation in large numbers does not arise.

Accident of Rail Engine near Tillajamalpura near Bhopal

60. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of residents of Tillajamalpura near Bhopal were run over by a railway engine on September 1st, 1988 at the track near Tillajamalpura;

(b) whether a number of accidents are taking place on this track;

(c) if so, whether despite various accidents on this track, the railway authorities have not improved the tracks and the accidents are continuing; and

(d) whether the Railways have decided to improve the tracks in a number of places in Madhya Pradesh during 1988-89, and if so, the number of tracks to be improved and number of those which have already been improved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) Improvement of track is a continuous process. Statistics of track renewals is not maintained State-wise but railway-wise. Madhya Pradesh is mainly traversed by Central, Western and South Eastern Railways. The details of track renewals on these Railways during 1987-88 are as follows:—

Central	—	581 kms.
South Eastern	—	640 kms.
Western	—	755 kms.